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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UR, SW
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO WALLENBERG'S SISTER

1. DEPARTMENT HAS JUST RECEIVED A LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 9 FROM RAOUL WALLENBERG'S SISTER, MS. NINA LAGERGREN, ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT REAGAN. IN THE LETTER, MS. LAGERGREN CONGRATULATES THE PRESIDENT ON HIS REELECTION AND EXPRESSES HER HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL CONTINUE TO RAISE HER BROTHER'S CASE WITH THE SOVIETS. COMPLETE TEXT OF LAGERGREN'S LETTER IS AT PARA 4.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER TO ENSURE DELIVERY BY JANUARY 17, THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF RAOUL
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WALLENBERG'S DISAPPEARANCE, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

(X) RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
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() DENY IN PART
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions
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IS: FPC/CDR

MR Cables Only:
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() DOWNGRADE

Date: 1/15/85

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PASS DIRECTLY TO MS. LAGERGREN THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRESIDENT (PARA THREE) UNDER COVER OF A LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S REPLY.

DEAR MS. LAGERGREN:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF MY REELECTION AND FOR YOUR EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF YOUR BROTHER, RAOUL WALLENBERG. I SHARE YOUR STRONG CONCERN ABOUT YOUR BROTHER'S FATE, AND I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES TAKES EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS CONCERN KNOWN TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES. THREE YEARS AGO, I UNDERScoreD THIS RESOLVE BY SIGNING INTO LAW LEGISLATION WHICH MADE YOUR BROTHER AN HONORARY AMERICAN CITIZEN. THEN, AS NOW, THE OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN TO MAKE THE SOVIETS AND THE WORLD AWARE OF OUR GREAT ADMIRATION FOR RAOUL'S COURAGE AND DEDICATION TO HUMANITY, AND TO DEMONSTRATE OUR ABHORRENCE FOR HIS UNJUST AND ILLEGAL PUNISHMENT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

WE HAVE RAISED RAOUL'S CASE WITH THE SOVIETS ON MANY OCCASIONS. ALTHOUGH, TO DATE, THEY HAVE BEEN UNRESPONSIVE, OUR EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL WE RECEIVE A FULL AND SATISFACTORY ACCOUNTING FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

THIS JANUARY 17 MARKS THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF RAOUL WALLENBERG'S DISAPPEARANCE, AND IT IS FITTING THAT WE
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COMMEMORATE THIS DAY BY REMEMBERING HIS HEROIC DEEDS IN SAVING THOUSANDS OF HUNGARIAN JEWS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO ANSWER, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THE QUESTIONS WE HAVE ABOUT HIS FATE.

I ALSO WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS THAT YOUR BROTHER MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE. BECAUSE OF THE CLOSED NATURE OF SOVIET SOCIETY,

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VERIFYING THESE REPORTS IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL MAINTAIN A COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO SEEK INFORMATION THAT WILL CLARIFY THE SITUATION AND LEAD TO A SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR, AND MY HOPE THAT THE TIME IS COMING NEAR WHEN THE SOVIETS WILL FINALLY REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR BROTHER.

SINCERELY,

RONALD REAGAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
END TEXT.

4. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF NINA LAGERGREN'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN. THE ADDRESS ON THE LETTERHEAD IS: RAOUL WALLENBERG-FORENINGEN, BOX 16076, 103 22 STOCKHOLM - POSTGIRO 90 02 52-8. TEL 8-10 26 53.

9. BEGIN TEXT OF LAGERGREN LETTER:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR EXPECTED OVERWHELMING
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VICTORY. EVER SINCE OCTOBER 5, 1981, WHEN I WITNESSED YOUR SIGNING THE DOCUMENT MAKING MY BROTHER RAOUL AN HONORARY AMERICAN CITIZEN, I WAS CONVINCED THAT THE HELP WILL COME FROM YOU. I AM STILL CONVINCED THAT YOU ARE ONE OF THE VERY FEW PERSONS WHO GETS THE SOVIETS TO LISTEN, SINCE YOU ARE USING A LANGUAGE THEY UNDERSTAND. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, FOR INSTANCE, UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY WELL THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, WHEN JUST LAST WEEK FRANCE DEMANDED THE LIBERATION OF THEIR TV-REPORTER JACQUES ABOUCHAR (WHO HAD BEEN) SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS (IN PRISON) IN KABUL. THE AFFAIR WAS QUICKLY SETTLED, AND MR. A IS BACK IN PARIS.

INFORMATION THAT RAOUL IS ALIVE, STILL COMES IN, EMANATING, HOWEVER, FROM PERSONS WHOSE IDENTITY CANNOT BE REVEALED - THEY ARE INSIDE AND TAKE BIG RISKS - AND

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WHOSE TRUSTWORTHINESS THUS CAN NEITHER BE CHECKED NOR PROVED. IT IS REALLY A CATCH 22 SITUATION: IN ORDER TO HELP RAOUL, WE OUGHT TO KNOW WHERE HE IS, AND IN ORDER TO KNOW THAT, WE HAVE TO FIND OUT. THAT IS THE TRAGEDY.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS INCLUDE RAOUL IN YOUR TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADERS.

WITH BEST WISHES TO YOU AND MRS. REAGAN,
SINCERELY YOURS,
NINA LAGERGREN
SHULTZ

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